

~~ADMINISTRATIVE - INTERNAL USE ONLY~~

Date: 02/16/2000 (Regulations may contain various dates)

Category: 6 - Public Affairs

OPR: OPA

Title: AR 6-1 MEDIA BRIEFINGS AND RELEASE OF UNCLASSIFIED
INFORMATION TO NEWS MEDIA

REVISION SUMMARY: 16 February 2000 (0381)

This regulation supersedes HR 6-1, dated 7 September 1988.

HR 6-1, formerly titled Release of Agency Information to Representatives of the Public Information Media, is retitled, revised, and redesignated AR 6-1, Media Briefings and Release of Unclassified Information to News Media. This revision sets forth policy and responsibilities that concerns contact with and briefings to the news media. Policy regarding the Agency's public Web Site has been removed from this regulation and is now referenced in AR 6-5. Also, AR 6-1 incorporates information formerly contained in HR 6-3.

Organizational titles have also been updated.

HR 6-3 is being rescinded separately.

Boldfaced text in this regulation indicates revisions.

This revision was written by Office of Public Affairs, (secure).

(b)(3)

**6. MEDIA BRIEFINGS AND RELEASE OF UNCLASSIFIED INFORMATION TO
NEWS MEDIA**

SYNOPSIS. This regulation sets forth policy and responsibilities that 1) concern contacts with and release of unclassified information to the news media and 2) govern unclassified briefings to members of the media.

- a. **AUTHORITY.** National Security Act of 1947 (as amended).
- b. **GENERAL.** Representatives of the press and other **news** media (hereinafter referred to as "media") frequently request briefings, interviews, and visits to discuss general Agency policies and programs and/or to obtain substantive facts concerning specific areas or activities of topical interest. It is Agency policy to be as forthcoming as is reasonably possible in the sharing of unclassified information with the American public via the media.

c. POLICY

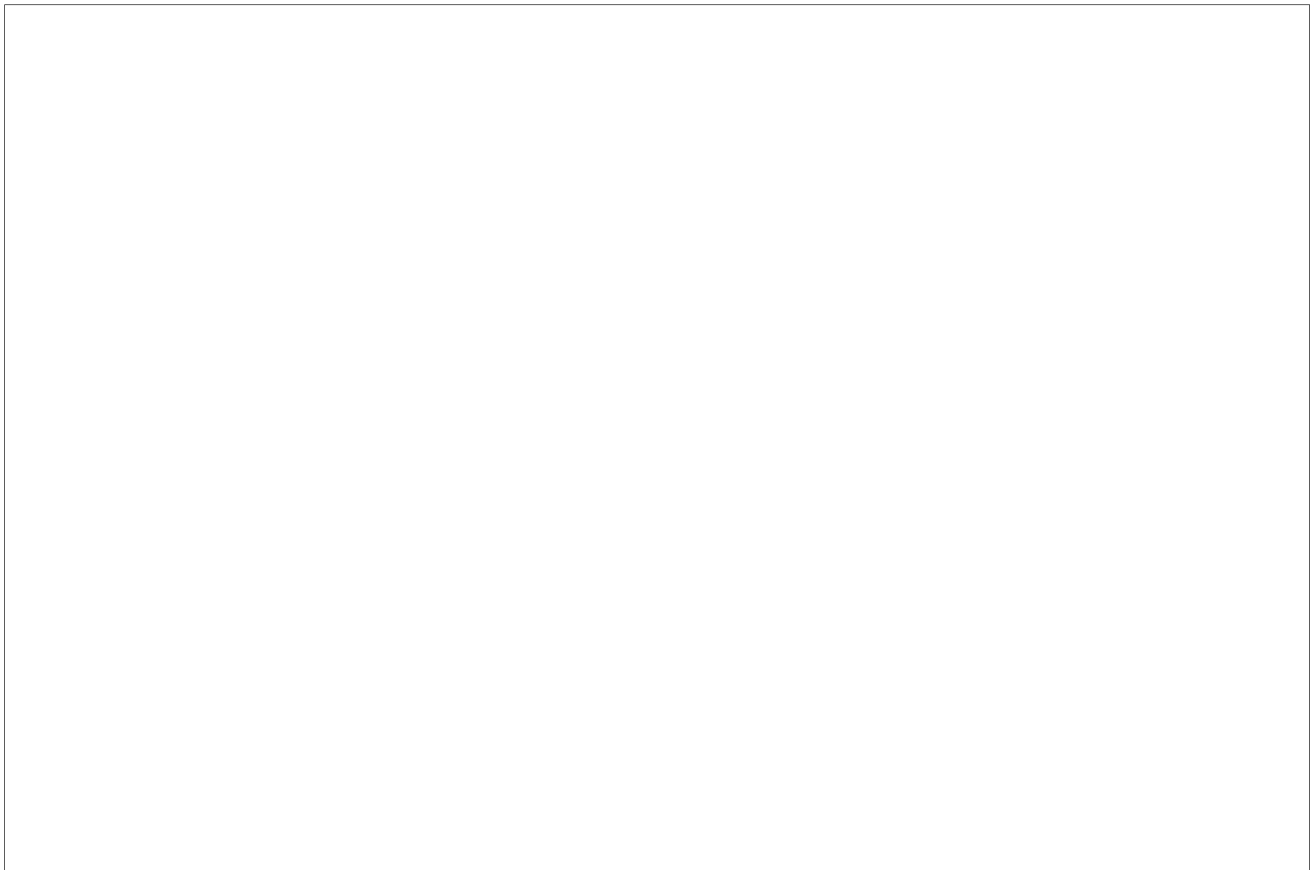
- (1) **Office of Public Affairs (OPA)** is responsible for responding to requests for briefings, interviews, and visits from the media and for arranging and monitoring responses. Each such event will be approved in advance by the Director of Public Affairs (**D/OPA**) and the directorate involved.
- (2) Media requests will be **granted** only if consistent with security considerations and if an appropriate briefer is available.
- (3) **Under no circumstances will information that is classified or information that reveals intelligence sources and methods be released to media or the public.**
- (4) **In granting media requests for briefings, interviews, or visits, OPA will not discriminate among members of the media.** Representatives of foreign media or foreign nationals representing domestic media, **however**, will not be provided briefings, interviews, or visits. Exceptions must be approved by **D/OPA**.
- (5) OPA is the focal point for all Agency contacts, **whether official or unofficial**, with media representatives, except for media requests made to the Agency under provisions of the Freedom of Information Act.
- (6) Agency employees contacted directly by a media representatives will refer the caller to **OPA**. Only the Director of Central Intelligence (DCI), **Deputy Director of Central Intelligence (DDCI)**, **Executive Director (EXDIR)**, or the **D/OPA** are authorized to **respond to media** queries directly or to delegate this authority to other Agency officials.
- (7) All official responses to inquiries from media representatives will be made by **OPA** or by individuals authorized to do so by **OPA**.
- (8) The decision to provide a briefing will be based on the merits of the request, the sensitivity of the issue, **the media representative's record of abiding by the conditions set forth in subparagraph d(5) below with respect to previous briefings**, and the availability of knowledgeable Agency briefers.
- (9) A specific decision to provide a briefing must be made on each individual request. A prior approval may not be used as the basis for honoring a subsequent request.
- (10) **OPA** will maintain appropriate materials and provide necessary guidance and advice to assist Agency officials in dealing with the media.

d. SPECIFIC CONDITIONS. The following specific conditions will apply to all background briefings of the media.

- (1) Briefings normally will be conducted in the offices of **OPA** or in another specifically designated area, and a representative of **OPA** will be present during the briefing. It will be the responsibility of **OPA** to ensure that the briefer and the representative of the media understand and agree to abide by the guidelines established **under this and other Agency regulations**.
- (2) Under no circumstances will the Agency employee giving the briefing divulge classified information or intelligence sources and methods. The briefer must avoid analytical conclusions that may be source-revealing and/or are based on background data of a sensitive nature. The briefer will not offer personal evaluations on U.S. foreign policy.

- (3) When applicable, **and consistent with HR 7-1 paragraph b(8), OPA** will advise media representatives that briefings are for background purposes only and not for attribution to the Agency or the employee giving the briefing.
- (4) Individuals giving substantive briefings will confine themselves to the subject of the request.
- (5) If classified information should be disclosed inadvertently, the briefer will request the media representative to treat the information as privileged, off the record, and not for publication. The briefer then will report the disclosures promptly through appropriate channels to **OPA** and the Director of **the Center for CIA Security (CCS)**.
- (6) **Approval under this regulation for any briefing of or contact with media representatives does not release a current or former employee from the legal obligation to submit any written or oral presentation for prepublication review as required by AR 6-2, AR 6-5(g), and AR 70-5(f).**

e. RESPONSIBILITIES



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